

THE
AMERICAN
THRESHERMAN
ASSOCIATION

*25th
Anniversary*



25th Anniversary Show

August 16 — 19, 1984
Pinckneyville, Illinois

*Souvenir
Book*

Property of Max Spurgeon
710 Saffee
Pinckneyville, IL
62274



IN APPRECIATION

The American Thresherman Association Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to express their sincere gratitude for the many donations of equipment supplies, and machinery through the years.

Individuals, families, and even businesses have contributed to the Association.

Such donations have helped to build this organization into one of the best in this part of the country.

Time and space does not permit individual listings of all donations, but everything from pitchforks, paint, parts, and binder twine to planters, wagons, binders and steam engines have been received and put to use in carrying out the Associations goals of preserving the past and educating the present generation for the future betterment of all.



"The Farm Power Association Contributing to Education, both Current & Out-dated Machinery"

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Pinckneyville, Illinois*

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*A Tribute To The Threshermen
From Ruth Ann Roethe*

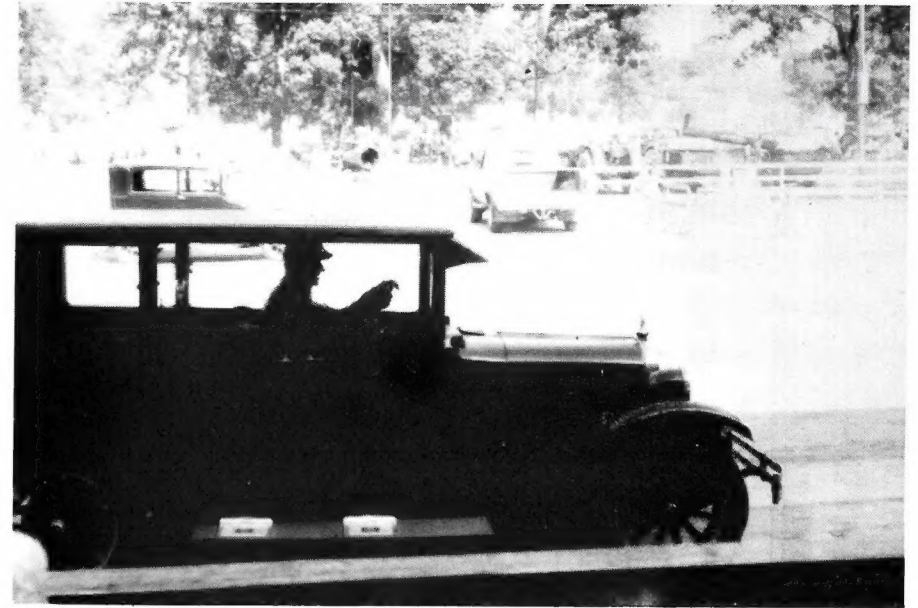
I Love The Old

*I love to listen to old people,
To what they have to say.
Advice about tomorrow,
Are reliving yesterday.*

*They can answer a lot of questions,
If you'll only take the time.
To listen as they read to you,
From the pages of their mind.*

*I hope someday, when I'm old and gray,
Someone will take the time.
To listen as I read to them,
From the pages of my mind.*

Poem used by permission of the author (Mike VanAusdoll)

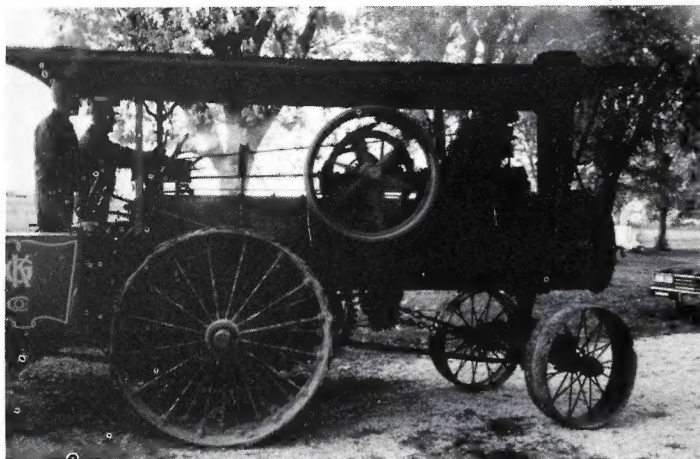


Rudy Caupert in his 1926 Dodge.

“Antiques”

*Catching a dusty gleam in the afternoon sun,
These old things are beautiful, not just
For what they are, but for the memories
Kept alive in well-worn handles, and planes.
An iron toy, a cherished tin,
Now put aside in decorative disregard,
Once spoke to the feel of human hands,
A daily expression of daily lives.
They seem to put a fix on moments past
And make them fresh and real again.
The things we loved when we were young
Are dearer now for what they were then.*

by APY



Bill and Edwin Schrader on Edwin's Keck

*Thanks for the memories as you gallantly strive
To keep old farming methods active and alive.
They are usually called "The Good Old Days",
But those who lived through them prefer "Modern Ways".*

*The steam engine sounds, shrill whistles and smoke
Bring back memories galore to all the "Old Folk".
The "Youngsters" can't imagine how life was back then;
When work was laborious for both women and men.*

*We salute the dedicated men, whose vision it was,
Tho' some are no longer with us who worked for the cause,
To annually give us this glimpse of the past
The variety of activities just can't be surpassed!*

*Each year since nineteen fifty nine to nineteen eight four
they've rendezvoused to thresh and grind, veneer and
saw and more.*

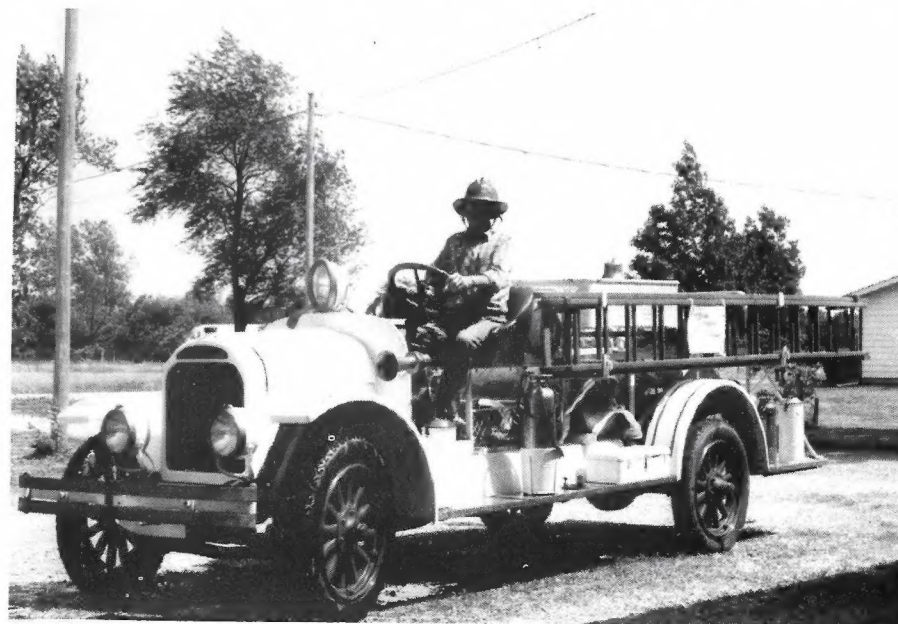
*They come for miles and stay for days and share comraderie;
Congratulations Threshermen, on your Silver Jubilee!*

From Edwin and Flossine Schrader

Congratulations American Thresherman Association

**on your 25th Anniversary
and wishing you even greater
success in the next 25 years!**

**From William Douglas
President of the
American Thresherman
Association**





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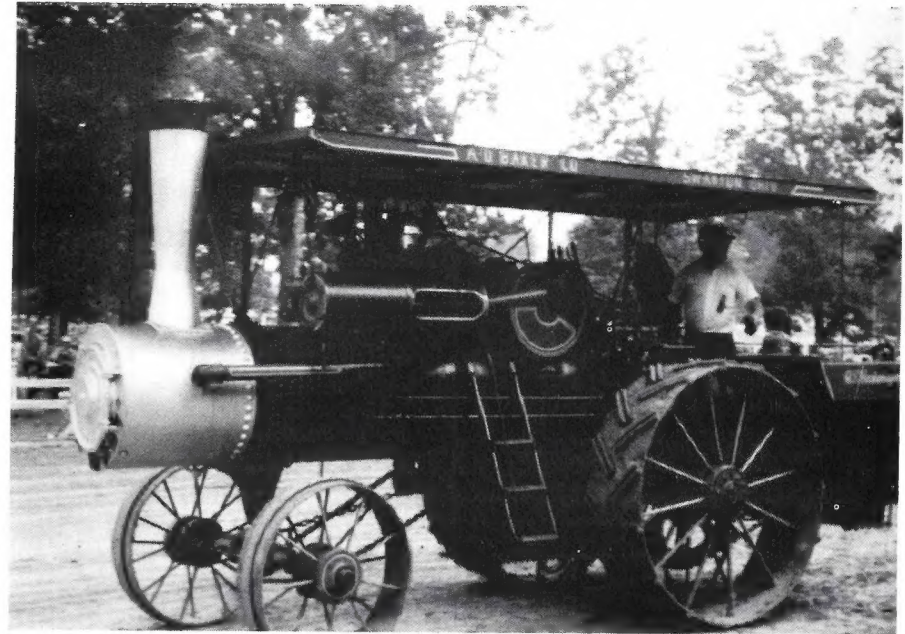


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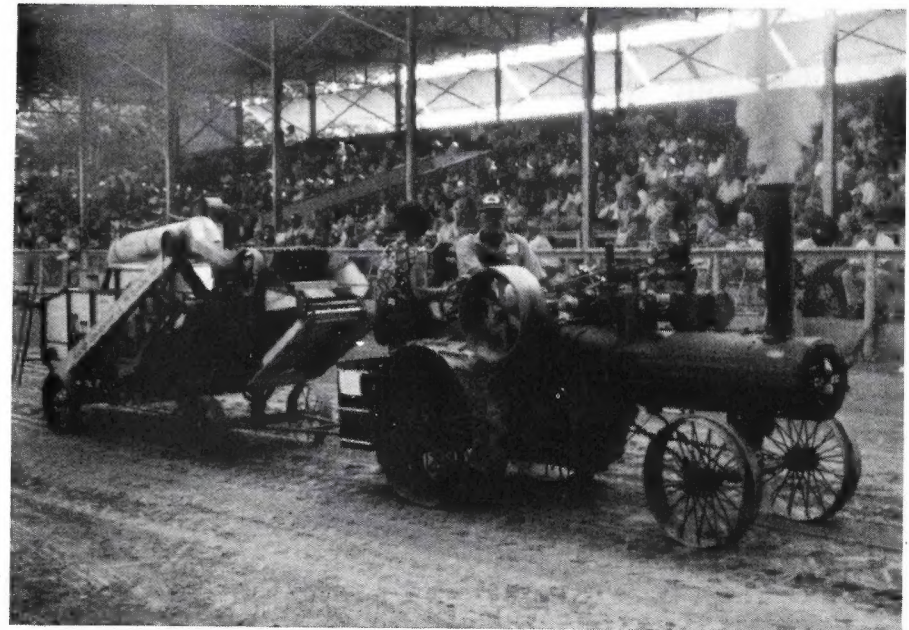
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Baker engine owned by Herb Beckemeyer of Champaign, Ill.



Russell Helms from Newman, Illinois on a 1/3rd scale model engine and model Keck separator.



Wib Steinkamp operates the shingle mill for a group of onlookers.



The blacksmith hammers out tools and implement parts in the age-old tradition.

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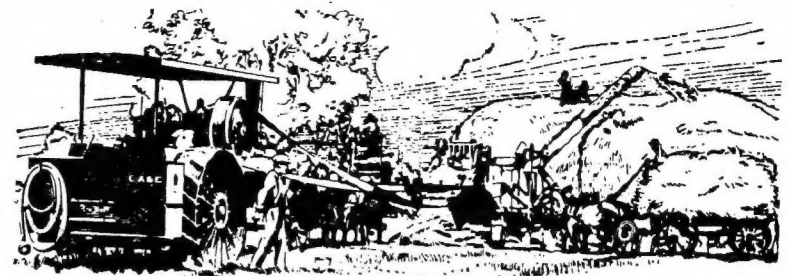
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These are the men that attended the first organizational meeting on October 15, 1959 at Brownstone, Illinois which led to the creation of The American Thresherman Association, Inc.

F. C. Lueker, Pinckneyville, Ill.
Joseph B. Drexelius, Bethalto, Ill.
R. B. Reams, Taylorville, Ill.
Albert Drexelius, Bethalto, Ill.
Clint Virgin, Belleville, Ill.
Ben Steinbrook, Alton, Ill.
Carl Steinbrook, Alton, Ill.
Adolf Grosse, Columbia, Ill.
Frederick Blauth, Tower Hill, Ill.
Clem Baudison, Pinckneyville, Ill.
W. Wilson Doty, Beecher City, Ill.
Thomas Doty, Beecher City, Ill.
Ralph Fisher, Assumption, Ill.
D. R. Bartimus, Beecher City, Ill.
Rudie Lilienkamp, Hoyleton, Ill.
Everett F. Pyle, St. Jacob, Ill.
L. R. Hampsmire, Decatur, Ill.
Amox Rixman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
George F. Bahre, Coulterville, Ill.

Of the five men still living at this time George Bahre and Rudie Lilienkamp are still actively involved with the American Thresherman Association and on the Board of Directors.

"Highlights Through The Years"

Gleaned from the minutes of the Board of Directors Meetings by Ruth Ann Roethe

1959 - Organized in March

1960 -)

1961 -) Little information could be found about these beginning years.

1962 - At the annual meeting Amos Rixman commented that the Association "organized 3 years ago this month for the purpose of furnishing some enjoyment to its members and to be the beginning of something very worthwhile."

(Looking back over the past 25 years the American Thresherman Association has most certainly accomplished what it set out to do!) Already in it's brief life the Association had earned such a reputation that 3 towns vied for the chance to become the permanent site for the Show. The Pinckneyville Chamber of Commerce invited the Threshermen with open arms and pledges of support and Pinckneyville was chosen over Mascoutah and Highland for the 1962 Show site.

All the machinery would now have to be hauled to this small Southern Illinois town with some pieces, such as a sawmill and 65 CASE engine coming from Jackson, Mo. and a newly purchased 12 bottom John Deere plow from Leota, Kansas. The prony brake was hauled from Wichita, Kansas and a Russell engine came from Blackwell, Oklahoma for the Show. Some machinery didn't have to travel as far, yet hauling costs for the Show that year totaled \$2,885.07. Thoughts of establishing a permanent museum were brought to light and this discussion continued for the next 13 years.

The first A.T.A. Show in Pinckneyville was quite an event featuring a shingle mill, a horse-powered thresher, a veneer mill, 2 oxen and a schooner, a calliope, between 10-15 antique tractors, steam engines, 3 farm company displays, helicopter rides, a small "ground hog" thresher, a sawmill, prony brake, 12 bottom plow, free ice water, and much, much more. Main events at this 5 day Show included: A parade beginning north of the local square and proceeding to the fairground with evening tractor pulling, "Basket Dinner Day" and a crop dusting demonstration over the plowing field. A gas-filled balloon ascension, Antique car show and selection of a hostess, a full parade and equipment demonstration as a finale.

On November 30, 1962 the American Thresherman Association was the main attraction of Southern Illinois Day in Chicago at the request of the publicity director for Southern Illinois University. A huge banner depicting the Association was painted and the stage area at this Chicago event was used for a display.

1963 - In an effort to let more people know about the Show 4 welcome signs were to be painted.



George Bahre and his Advance Rumely engine ready to welcome visitors.



Peerless steam engine formerly owned by D. R. Bartimas, donated to the American Thresherman Association in 1963.

New additions to the Show included a historical drama written by students at S.I.U. to be presented Sat. night. A horseshoe pitching contest was also planned. The Association's sawmill was to be put in shape for the Show and a steam calliope from Hannibal, Mo. was to be there. The smallest team of mules ever (27 in. high) were scheduled to be at the Show along with an 80 CASE engine coming from Lamont, Iowa and a prony brake from Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

1964 - It was suggested that a miniature stean train would be a 'fine idea' for the children at the Show. There was a stagecoach at the Show for the enjoyment of the visitors.

1965 - A square dance band entertained at the Show this year.

1966 - Pony pulls were scheduled for the '66 Show. 2 engines were hauled from LaMotte, Iowa for the Show.

A setback for the Association occurred in July when the Association's sawmill was destroyed by fire.



Corn shredder in operation.

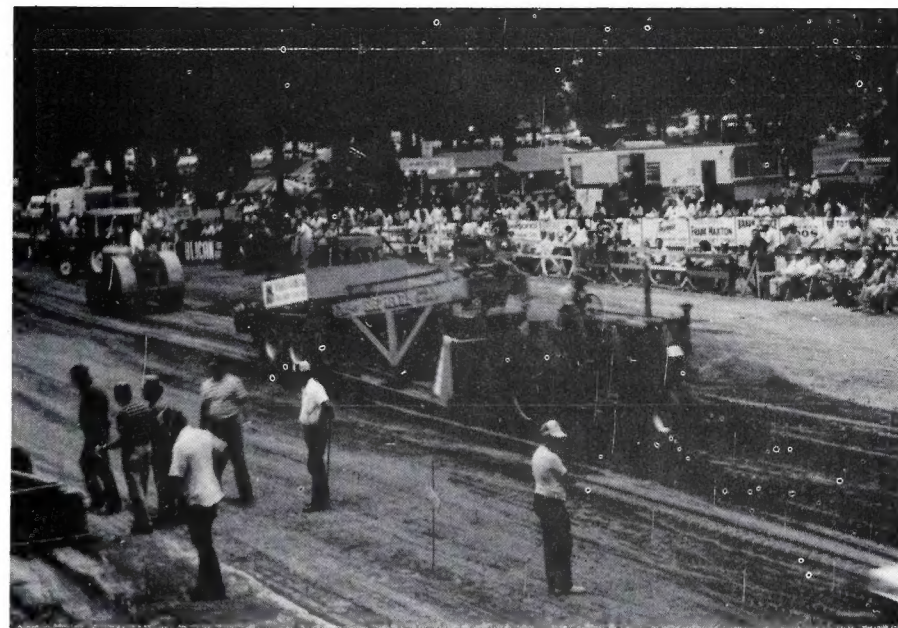


"Sound Off" - Noon whistle at an early show.

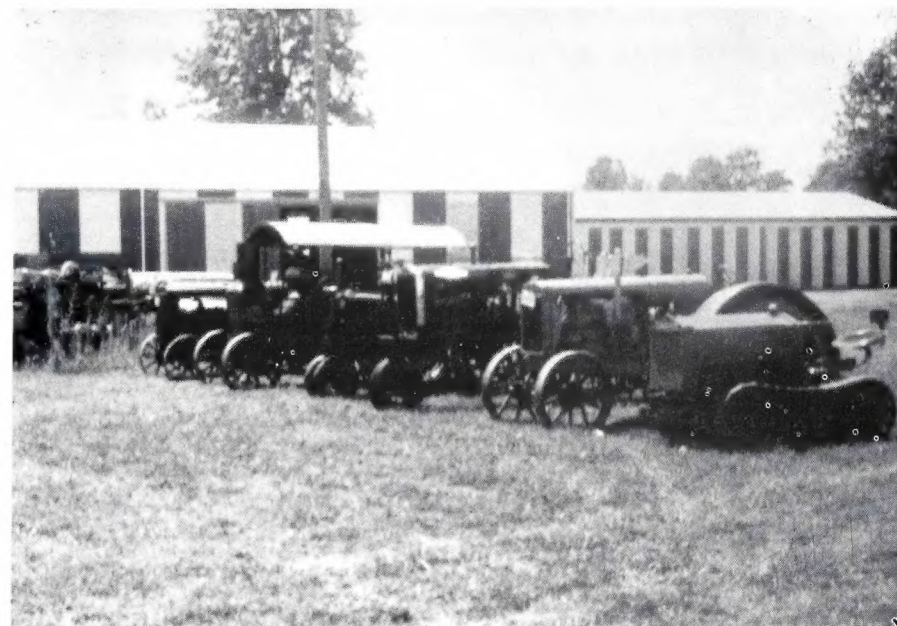
- 1969 - With a successful and growing Show and expenses for hauling by individuals ever on the rise, the Board decided to purchase its first truck and low-boy. A sound system was also purchased for the Show and 3 nights of tractor pulling were planned.
- 1970 - Lending a helping hand, the Association loaned a separator to the Blue Mound group to use for their show.
- 1971 - This year brought many new additions to the Show including an antique tractor pull, antique car races, and a group of hillbilly comedians from Kentucky entertaining Saturday and Sunday. The reputation of the American Thresherman Show was more widespread than even the Threshermen expected. The Board was notified during the summer that 32 South American, Asian, and African cabinet level officers and dignitaries would be touring Southern Illinois to learn about agriculture in the United States and would like to visit the Show. The men were eagerly welcomed and escorted through the Show. After which a letter was received from the United States Department of Agriculture thanking the Threshermen for their kindness toward these delegates. In November a 1964 International diesel truck with a ten speed Roadranger transmission was bought.
- 1972 - Grounds improvements of a more permanent nature were in mind when a shelter was built to house the Peerless engine and large Corliss engine at



1935 Allis-Chalmers tractor owned by Marion Konkell of Pinckneyville



The antique tractor pull has grown into a major event with many participants and watchers.

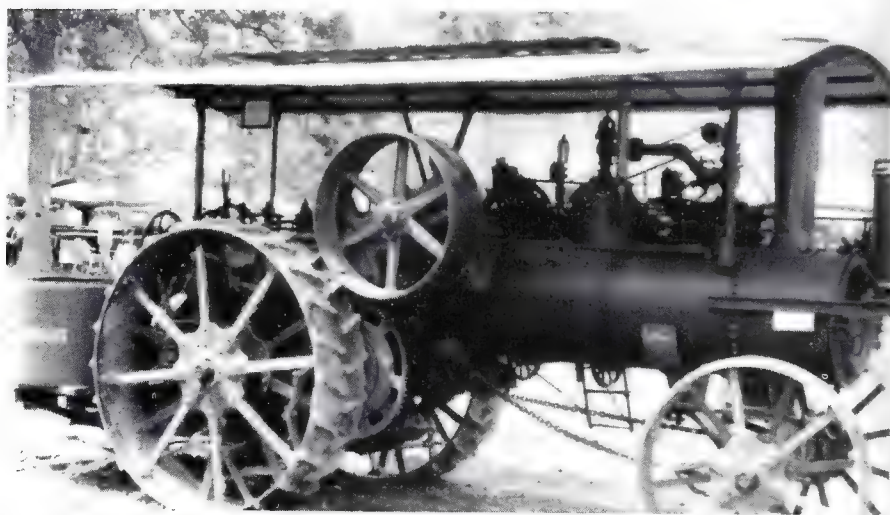


The tractor line-up before being transferred to the centerring.

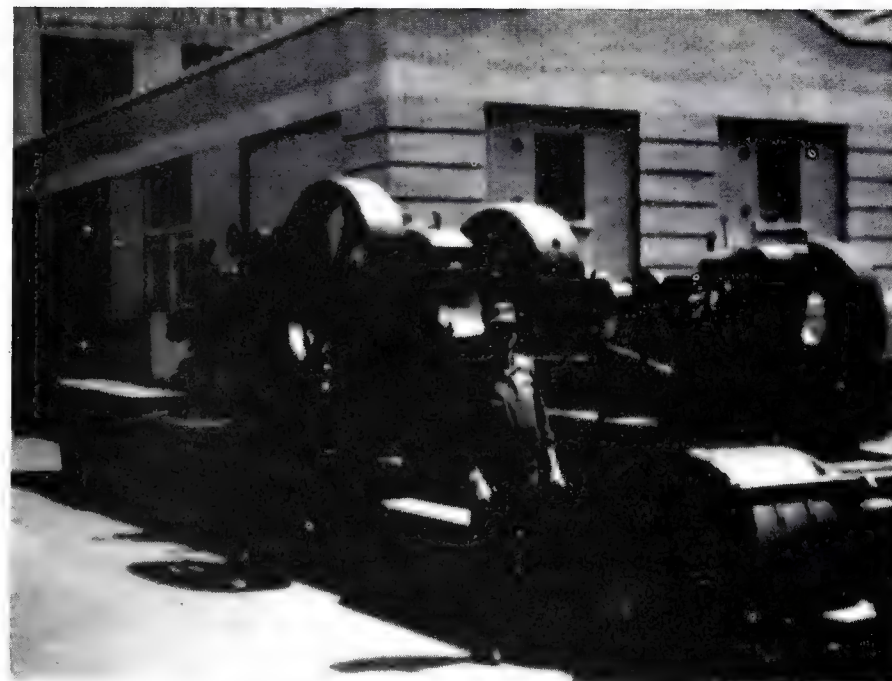
the north side of the fairgrounds. This Corliss was once used by the Pinckneyville mill.

The American Thresherman Association was represented in the Rend Lake Opening Parade and dedication where a steam engine was hauled on the newly purchased truck and trailer. This equipment was put to a different use later in the year when the Board was asked to use their truck and lowboy to carry the past queens in the Pinckneyville Mardi Gras Parade.

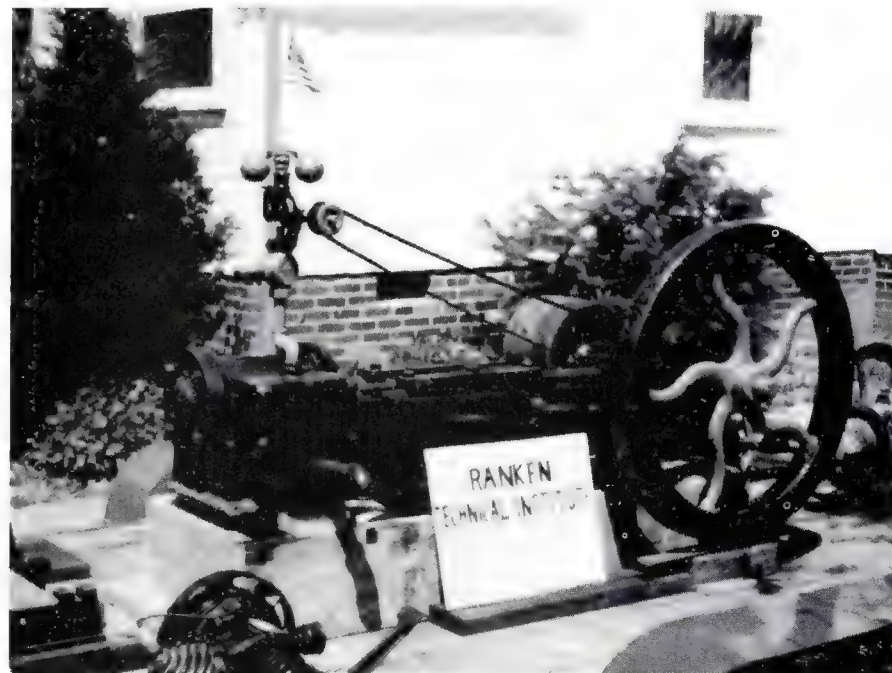
- 1973 - Word was received by the Board that Ranken Trade School in St. Louis would like to donate their old engines to the Association if the Threshermen could remove them from the building. This turned out to be quite a lengthy job, but the engines are now a part of the Association's regular display.
- 1974 - For the 1974 Show the tractor pulls were sanctioned by the International Tractor Pull Association in order to attract even more tractors. \$250 was donated by the Association to the Perry County Fair Board for the new facilities they were building on the grounds and various other donations to the Fair Board were to follow. Spreading their resources further, plans were made to take Tom Castleton's steam engine to the Mt. Vernon Sweetcorn Festival to cook the corn.
- 1975 - What started out as a dream and last year was a possibility now began taking shape as a reality. A special building was planned in connection with our nation's Bicentennial to be built by the Threshermen as an agricultural museum. Ground was leased from the city of Pinckneyville and pledges of support were received from the city and local Chamber of Commerce. A special Bicentennial grant was received and April 1 was set as the date for construction to begin.



Minneapolis engine on display



Engines from the Ranken Technical Institute enroute to Pinckneyville.



1976 - On June 13, the giant red and white 50 x 120 foot steel frame building located on the west side of the fairgrounds was dedicated. The president of the Illinois Farm Bureau was there along with the Board of Directors, City dignitaries, and many enthusiastic Threshermen and visitors. The Threshermen's dream was now a reality! Their machinery, tools and relics now had a home. Guided tours for visitors were conducted through the building on weekends from July 4 till Labor Day.

A 1959 Ford truck was purchased to haul tractors.

The Association paid ½ the cost for rebuilding the west fence of the fairgrounds.

1977 - Although the museum building seemed huge in the beginning, the Threshermen soon found more room was needed so the building was enlarged to hold more machinery.

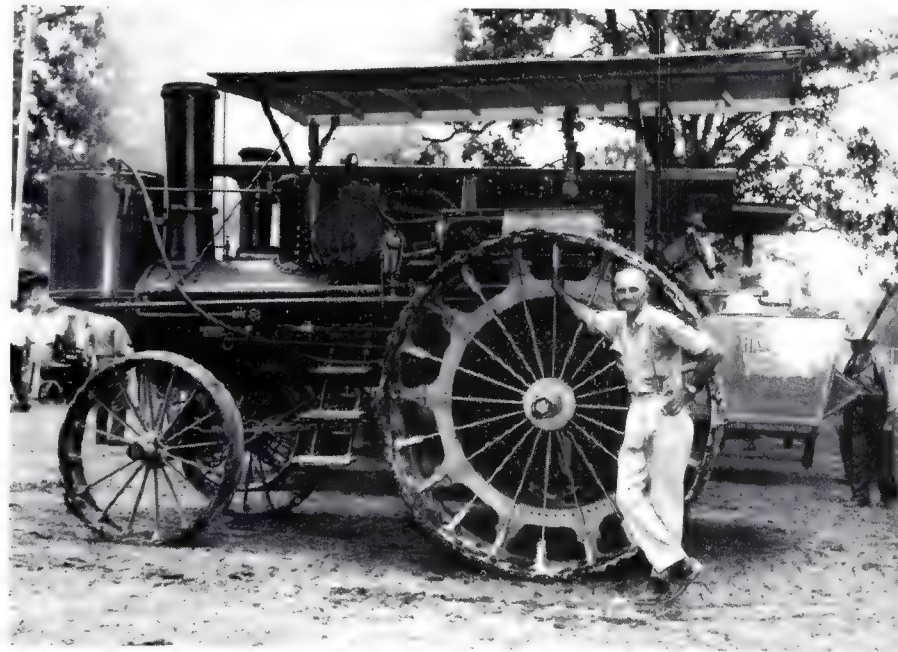
Seven additional Directors were added to the Board to help keep up with the every-growing work load of the Board.



Various speakers were present for the Dedication Ceremonies of this local Bicentennial project and dream building for the Threshermen.



1913 Titan owned by the Association.



Harrison Jumbo engine at the show.

A new feature at the Show was the individually owned miniature steam locomotive which puffed around the center ring followed by its 3 passenger cars and caboose providing passengers an exciting ride and an all-around view of the Show.

- 1979 - The Association was invited to take an engine and display to the Southern Illinois Folk Festival in Du Quoin in September. This became a regular event for the Threshermen.
- 1980 - Age and many, many miles traveled were taking their toll on the Association's hauling truck so a newer 1976 International truck was bought in Jan. The Association began their regular participation in the Pinckneyville Mardi Gras parade with their new truck, an engine, and portable display, publicizing the Show and distributing candy to the children. Part of the Threshermen's continuing efforts to improve the Show and Show grounds included the purchase and planting of 5 pin oak trees this year in the center ring.
- 1981 - With a newly painted truck and willing workers, the Association took part in the Shriner's parade in Du Quoin and let everyone know about the Threshermen and their upcoming show. Another event for the growth and improvement of the Show was a square dance on the tennis courts for Thursday evening during the Show. Speaking of improvements, the Board decided to fill in the low spots in the center ring and reseed the area. With the City's approval this was accomplished and the Threshermen bought 5 more trees for the center ring.



The American and Southern Illinois Railroad in operation at the show.



Dancers and spectators alike enjoyed the music and lively change of pace at the square dances.



The truck and trailer had quite a load with this 200 H.P. Skinner stationary steam engine from the Belleville brewery.

In order to have more storage room near the Show grounds, the Association purchased a 30 x 80-foot building to be erected behind the larger museum building.

- 1982 - This year the ongoing effort to improve the Show resulted in the change from a Class B to a Class A tractor pull meaning higher prize money and more tractors for the pulls. 5 additional trees were again purchased by the Association for the center ring.
A custom built trailer was bought to haul engines and machinery for the Show.

- 1983 - New for the 1983 Show - a farmer's class tractor pull to give the local men a chance to try their skill and machinery.
Pony Rides were available for children at the Show.
A very large stationary steam engine was donated to the Association by a Belleville brewery and after a great deal of work by the Threshermen and many trips to Belleville the monster engine now rests near the display shelter at the north end of the fairgrounds.
In December the American and Southern Illinois miniature steam railroad was purchased from the previous owners.



1984 - Our 25th year! Plans have been in the making since January to make this an outstanding Show for our 25th Anniversary. Special silver souvenir buttons were designed, and special awards were purchased for exhibitors. Concerning improvements, recent workdays have been devoted to improving the electrical wiring situation on the grounds. Poles have been erected and wiring strung in the center ring with more wiring being planned. The area Methodist churches requested use of the grandstand and our rustic scenery on Wednesday evening prior to the Show for an old time church meeting in celebration of their churches bi-centennial so the Show will have a new opening activity. Participating in parades has been an exciting part of the Association's publicity work lately and this year our entry in the Benton Rend Lake Parade won two trophies for the "Most Original" and "Most Spectacular" entry. Our impressive red, white, and blue truck pulled the trailer on which a small working sawmill was set up powered by a model engine in operation throughout the parade.



Superior 25 H.P. gas engine owned by Dave Porter of Oakdale, Illinois.



A team of Belgium horses and wagon from Staunton, Illinois

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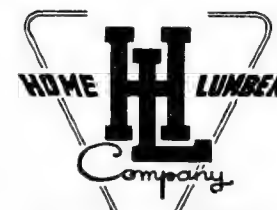


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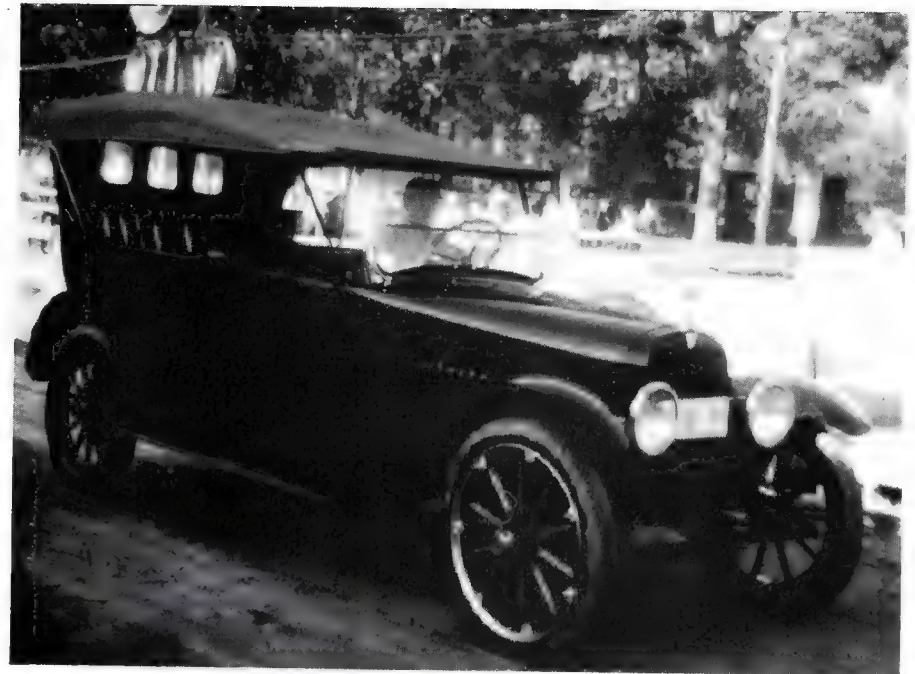
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Congratulations on 25 years of shows.

Fred (Fritz) Beck was one of the early members of the American Thresherman's Association. He served on the board of directors for many years and is now a lifetime member. He once owned a stean engine and threshing machine, and traveled around Perry County threshing for various farmers.



Rayman (Ray) and Lucille (Lucy) Beck worked with the Association for many years.

Ray served on the board for several years until his death in 1973. Lucy helped with the grandstand until Ray's death when she took over the entire grandstand operation until her death in 1978.

This page is dedicated to them for the years service they provided the Association. This page is paid for by the family whose lives they made so full.

* * *

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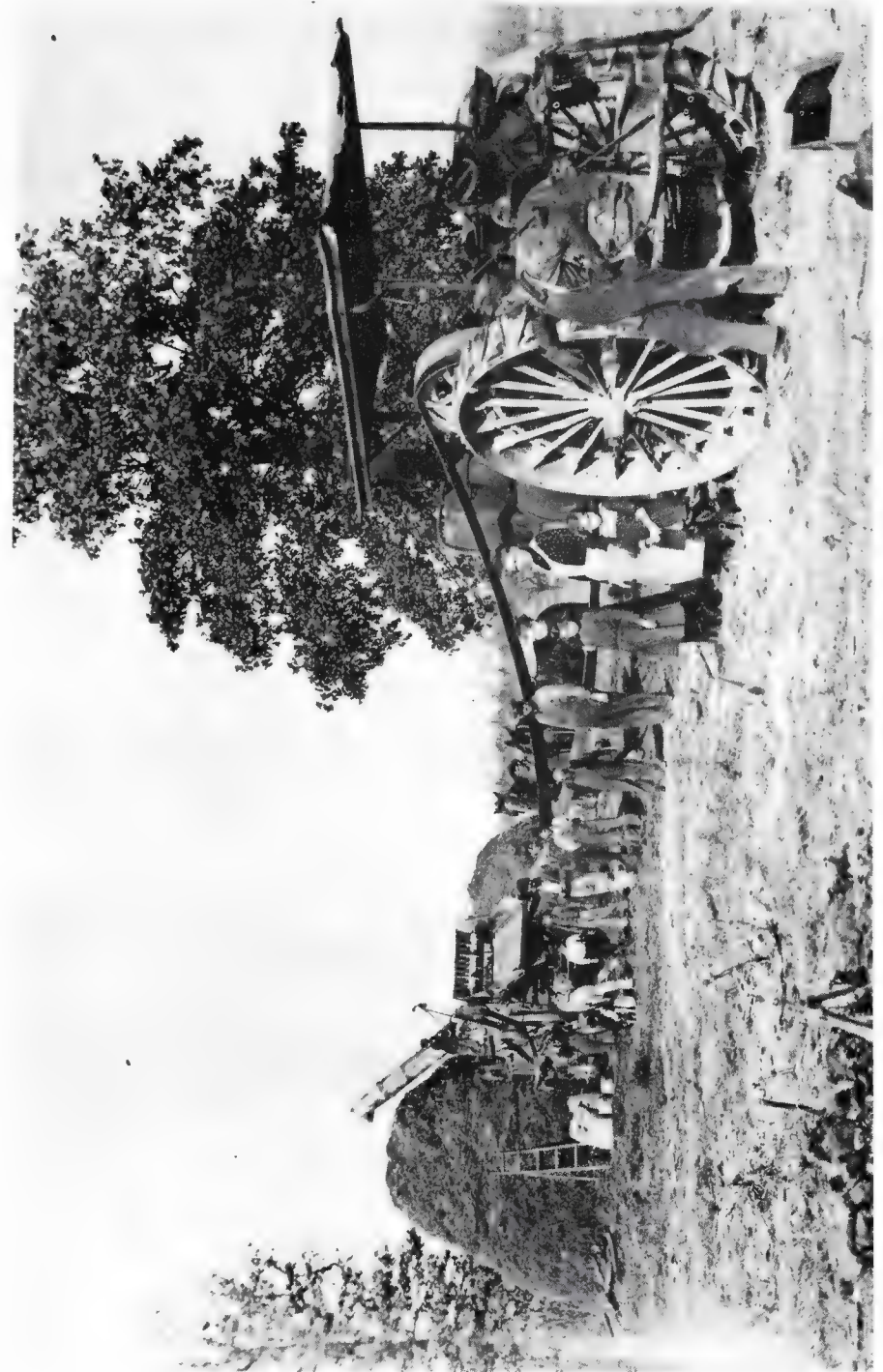
"What Is A Thresherman?"

He's dust, grease, and coal soot, experience and hard work, with an unyielding dedication to the machinery of yesterday that made America what it is today. In years past, the threshermen belonged to threshing crews which traveled through the countryside at harvest time. When they came to a farm the men would set up the steam engine and threshing machine near a water source and wagons of bundles would be hauled to the machines where the threshing machine would separate the grain from the straw using the power supplied by the huge steam engine.

Today the entire process is done in the field by one man driving a combine, but that one man in a combine would never be there if it were not for the work of those men before him. It was for this purpose of remembering the past and preserving our link with it that the American Thresherman Association (a non-profit organization) was formed. These men have joined together to share old threshing memories and show others the tremendous progress that has been made in their lifetimes in order that we might better appreciate the great inheritance to today's way of life received from past generations.

Not only were steam engines used to run threshing machines, but they supplied power for many other purposes such as plowing, sawing wood, making veneer, cutting shingles, and grinding grain for flour. All of these activities and a great many more such as blacksmithing and horse-powered farming plus exhibits of antique tractors, tools, gas engines, and household items can be seen each year during the third weekend of August when the American Thresherman Association holds its Annual Power Progress Show at the Pinckneyville Fairgrounds.

R.A.R.





First National Bank

210 S. Main St. — Pinckneyville, Ill.
Phone 357-9393



Horse powered wheat threshing demonstrations during the show attract many on lookers.



Past Presidents Of The American Thresherman Association

1960-1963 Amos Rixman, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
1964-1965 Winton Bigham, Pinckneyville, Illinois
1966-1968 Paul Wagner, Willisville, Illinois
1969-1970 Ollie Knepper, Belleville, Illinois
1971 George F. Bahre, Coulterville, Illinois
1972-1978 Ed Jansen, Teutopolis, Illinois
1979 Rudie Lilienkamp, Hoyleton, Illinois
1980-1984 Bill Douglas, Granite City, Illinois

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The American Thresherman Association, Inc., provide wholesome entertainment for all ages, and WHEREAS, The American Thresherman Association, Inc., in their presentation provide an outstanding chronological record of power progress in the growth of America.

BE IT RESOLVED, The Board of Commissioners of Perry County, in further recognition of the purpose, desire and perserverance of the membership of the American Thresherman Association, Inc., officially invite the American Thresherman Association, Inc., to make Perry County, Illinois the site for the permanent continuance of the dedication to the preservation of our "American Heritage".

August 17, 1973



Daily Program Of Featured Events

AUGUST 16-17-18-19

- 10:00 A.M. Official Flag Raising and Opening of Show
- 10:10 A.M. Baker Fans and Prony Brake
- 10:30 A.M. Saw Milling Demonstration
or Wood Veneering
- 11:00 A.M. Wheat Threshing in Center Ring
- 11:30 A.M. Shingle Mill
- 12:00 Noon Noon Whistle
- 1:00 P.M. Activities Resume on Grounds
- 1:15 P.M. Plowing on West Side of Fairgrounds
- 1:30 P.M. Various Activities in Center Ring
- 2:00 P.M. Flour Milling and Blacksmithing,
and Prony Brake
- 2:30 P.M. Wheat Threshing by Horse Power,
and Steam or Tractor in Center Ring
- 3:30 P.M. Saw Milling Demonstration,
or Wood Veneering
- 4:30 P.M. **Parade of Power** in front of Grandstand

*NOTE: Various activities on the Grounds run concurrently.
Times listed indicate approximate starting time only.*

AT ALL TIMES

Under the grandstand — Large display of antiques and various things of interest.

North of the grandstand — Large flea market.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE ALTERATIONS

9:00 A.M. Flag Raising and Church Services
—Grandstand

3:30 P.M. Antique Car Parade —
Awarding of Trophies

Immediately following Car Parade. Parade of Power
In front of Grandstand

SPECIAL EVENTS!!!

THURSDAY

- 6:00 P.M. ... Southern Illinois Fun Association
Garden Tractor Pull
- 7:00 P.M. Farmer's Class Tractor Pull
5,000 lb., 7,000 lbs., 9,000 lbs., 12,000 lb.
- 8:00 P.M. Square Dance with
with Breez Graham as caller

FRIDAY

- 10:00 A.M. Antique Tractor Pull
Powder Puff and classes 1 & 2
- 7:00 P.M. I.T.P.A. Class A
Hot Rod Tractor Pull
5200 H.R., 5500 H.R., 7200 H.R.

SATURDAY

- 10:00 A.M. Antique Tractor Pull
Classes 3, 4, & 5
- 12:30 P.M. National Micro-Mini Pull
Association
Micro-Mini Tractor Pull
- 7:00 P.M. I.T.P.A. Class A
Super Stock Tractor Pull
5,500 Super Stock
10,000 Pro Stock
12,000 Pro Stock

SUNDAY

- 9:00 A.M. Outdoor Worship &
Memorial Service
- Antique Auto Show and Swap Meet



John
Judy
Marietta
Vincent
Carol
Roger

JANSEN

*It has been our pleasure to have been part of this
Association since 1968.*

R.R. 3

Effingham, IL 62401



A beautifully handcrafted model engine with matching waterwagon and farm wagon belonging to the Swartzentrubers of Loogootee, Ind.



Bill Douglas' Advance Rumely engine hooked to Dee Quick's fan.



Duly authorized picture of the American Threshman Board of Directors.



Handmade Thresherman's Flag displaying the official logo of the organization.

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"WHY"

"I spent many long hard hours working with machinery like this years ago. I never thought then the day would come when I'd drive so many miles and spend so many hours working on the same machinery for the fun of it."

Quotes like this are common among the Threshermen who put on the Show you are attending today. Why spend so many hours, dollars, and miles on the road traveling for steam engines, old tractors, threshing machines, gas engines, and other farming and milling machinery too old to ever be of profitable service? One reason is found in the above quote; It's fun!

Another reason is found in the Threshermen's deep concern for the past and the future which is evidenced in their work at present—restoring, maintaining, and operating the machinery of the past to educate the present generation regarding the 'labor-saving' devices and machinery of their predecessors—in order to spur the imagination and inventiveness of tomorrow's Cyrus McCormicks, John Deeres, and Robert Fultons.

Now, on returning to the first reason why the Threshermen put out such an effort, we all learned in childhood that it was much more fun to work at something on our own than to be made to do the same thing. Perhaps that is part of the fun the Threshermen refer to. Perhaps the challenge of turning a piece of scrap iron almost ready for the junk pile into a valuable working machine is a part of the enjoyment. Perhaps the enjoyment comes with watching others marvel that a machine such as theirs was actually used to make a living. More than likely, the people who make this Show the success that it is are here for a combination of the above reasons and more also. If you'd like to know why they do it just ask one of them. I'm sure, if they can spare the time at the moment, they would enjoy telling you and you, likewise, will enjoy the answer. Renewing old friendships and establishing new ones are two of the great benefits our Show offers.

R.A.R.



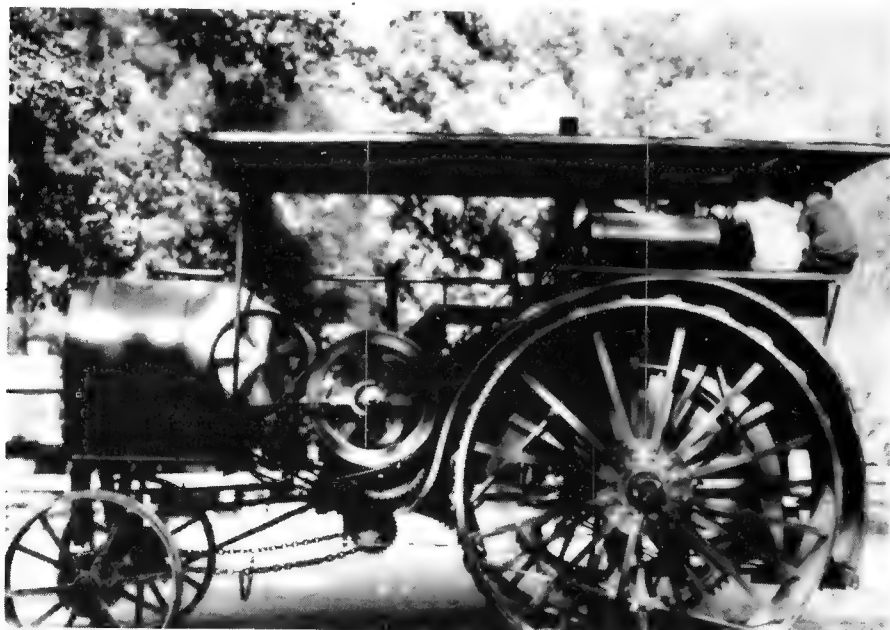
The Belleville separator during threshing.



The small sawmill in operation.



This is a Sears & Roebuck Theiman Tractor built from a kit using a Model A car base. It belongs to Ed Jansen of Teutopolis, Illinois.



30-60 Altman-Taylor tractor owned by Joe Rittenhouse of Bement, Ill.



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YOU CAN SEE IT IN THEIR EYES

In recent years the American Thresherman Association has participated in many area parades to let people know about the Association and its Annual Show. It is fascinating to watch the reactions of the people, young and old, viewing the striking red, white, and blue semi with its flags fluttering pull the low lengthy trailer on which the gentle giant of a steam engine rests.

As the older men view the engine you can see a tender familiar remembrance come into their eyes. Fifty years ago it might have been hard, hot work, but the memory that remains is one of kindly respect for such a powerful machine and a special kinship with the men who operated it.

To the working man of today, a wonderment enters his eyes as he tries to comprehend the vast amount of time and energy spent to farm small fields that today are worked in a few hours.

For the children, the monstrous engine holds a special enchantment as it rolls into sight with smoke puffing softly from its stack and iron wheels taller than they are. "WOW! What is it? What is it?" the child excitedly asks.

And that's why we are here today. Steam engines and antique machinery will probably always be available to look at in pictures and sitting dormant in a few museums, but to explain "What is it?" to an inquisitive mind the American Thresherman Association has dedicated itself to the **action** show you see here this weekend. It would be much easier to scrub and paint the old machinery and let it rest in a clean sheltered building, yet mere words can't explain the smell of coal smoke, the sound of a steam whistle, or the thrill of watching one of these stately giants working at what it was built to do in a bygone era.

So, for the children who wonder what a steam engine is for the working person who marvels how the seemingly endless work was ever accomplished, and for the older generation that knows the 'what' and 'how' and treasures those memories of the past, the American Thresherman Association presents its **25th Annual Steam, Gas, and Threshing Show**.

R.A.R.



Steelville 4th of July Parade.



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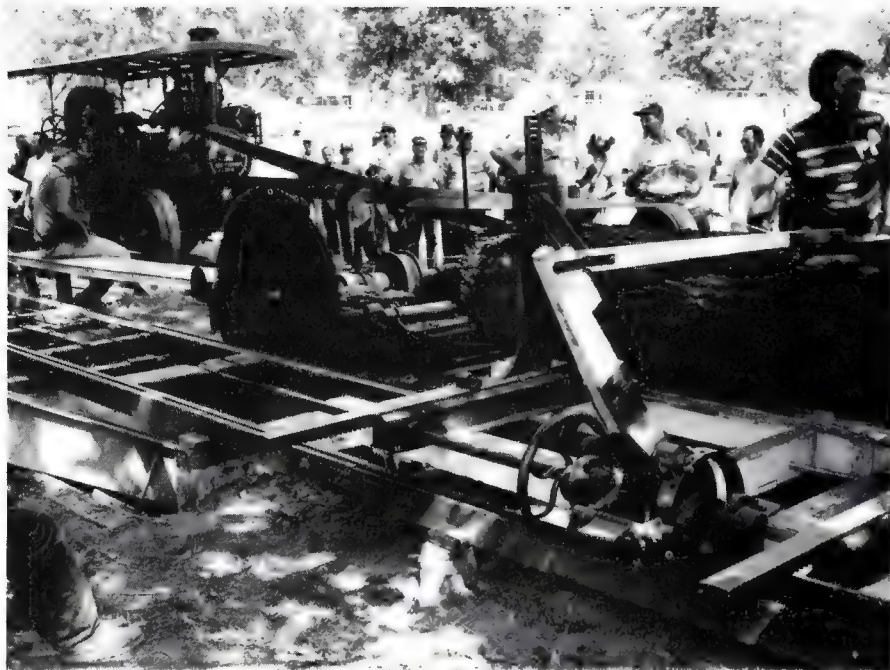
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One of the many nice looking teams participating in the Show parade.



Dave Porter and his team taking part in the Show activities.



The Thresherman's saw mill in operation.



Don Raube's unusual Avery tractor from Pontiac, Illinois.

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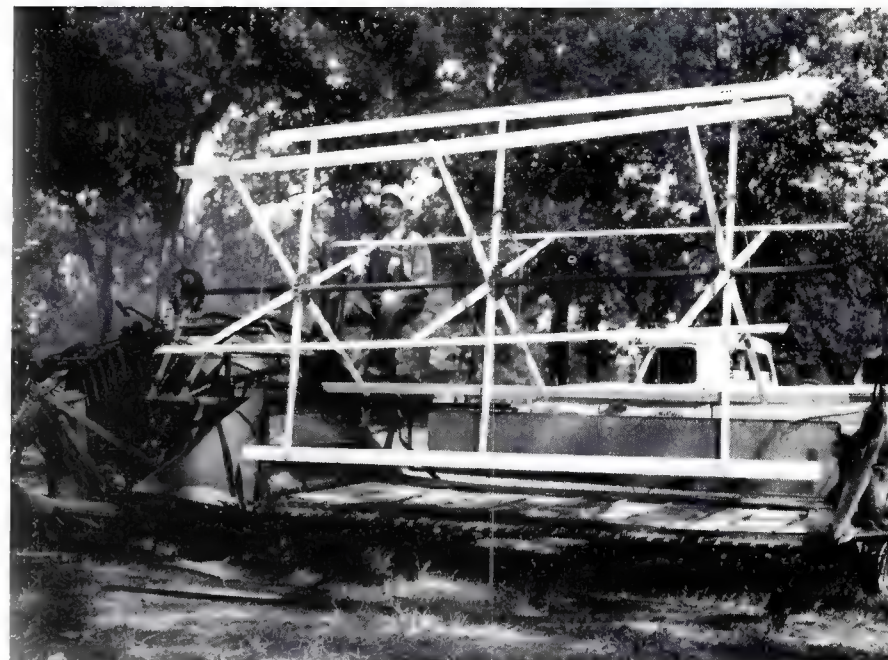
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Much must be done early in the summer to prepare for the Show. Here John Weatherford poses with the binder used to cut the wheat.



Shocking wheat for the Show takes practice if the bundles are to stay standing.

THE JANSEN STORY

"Hey Eddy" my father said "Do you want to go to a Thresherman's Show at Pontiac, Illinois."

"I guess so" I replied.

"Good Frank Goldstien's going to. I just saw the ad in last month's Praire Farmer!"

Who would of thought that this simple request would spark an interest in farming and antique machines that would grow to include all of my family, most of my brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, grandchildren and a great many friends and neighbors.

That was Pontiac's first Thresherman's Show. I had enjoyed myself so much that every summer afterwards I would load up the wife, and kids and Dad and head for the Thresherman's Shows in Illinois and nearby states.

In 1956 we attended Puille's Centenial Show. Then in September 1956 my father passed away suddenly. I lost all interest in going, too busy raising my family and making a living.

November 1955 my brother Charles Jansen and I bought the Hi-Way Garage in Sigel, Illinois. Sigel celebrated its centenial in 1963 with a farming and antique machines show. Our garage was asked to be chairman and we agreed. The show turned out so well that all our old interest in antiques returned.

In 1964 my hometown of Teutopolis celebrated it's sesquicentennial, again the Jansen's and friends were asked to help. After another successful show we were hooked.

We began restoring antiques after a friend of ours Wm. Bartimus introduced us to a Twin City 17-28 tractor. Years ago my father, my brother Virgil, and I used to farm with a Twin City. It brought back a lot of memories and was restored with a great deal of pride. So then when another friend, D. R. Bartimus of Beecher City, he had helped with the Sigel and Teutopolis shows, asked just what are you going to do with this tractor and how about taking it to Pinckneyville for the Pinckneyville American Thresherman's Show? The word was go!

This was in 1965 and every year more friends, neighbors, and relatives joined us for the annual trek south to Pinckneyville. I had heard of Pinckneyville before from my uncle Father Joe Jansen. He was a SVD missionary in China and had worked with Father Joe Fointana, R. R., Pinckneyville. Every show seemed like a family reunion, meeting old friends and making new ones.

After serving on both the Board of Directors and Executive Board as president for 6 years, I am now presently serving as 1st Vice President.

We are proud of the accomplishments of the A.T.A. We try to provide a good clean show with lots of improvements each year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the town of Pinckneyville and its people for being so good to us. Also to thank everyone that helped me in any way for the fellowship and good times, the Jansen's and the helpers from the north. Keep up the good shows.





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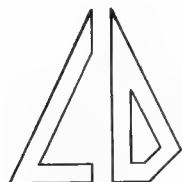
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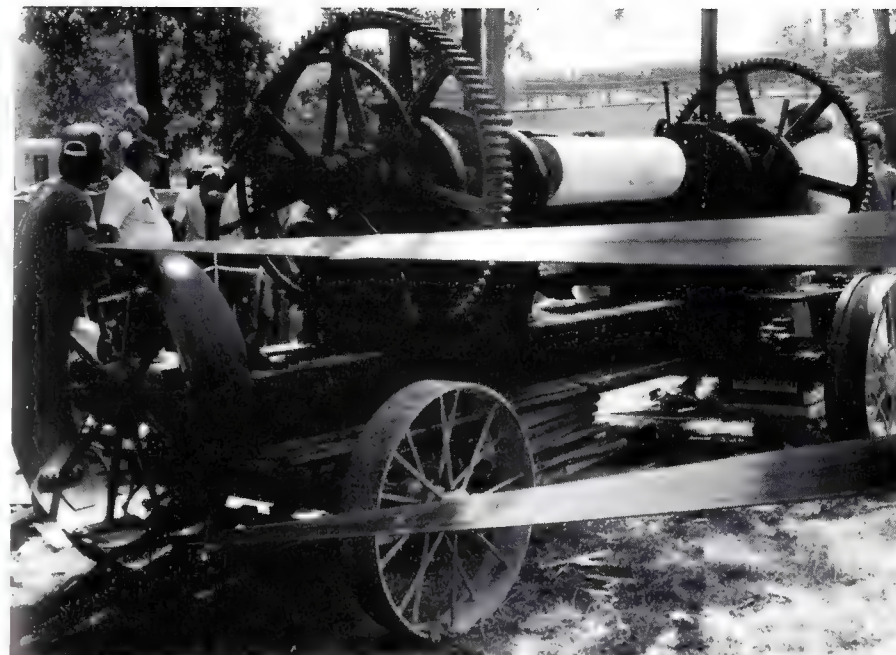
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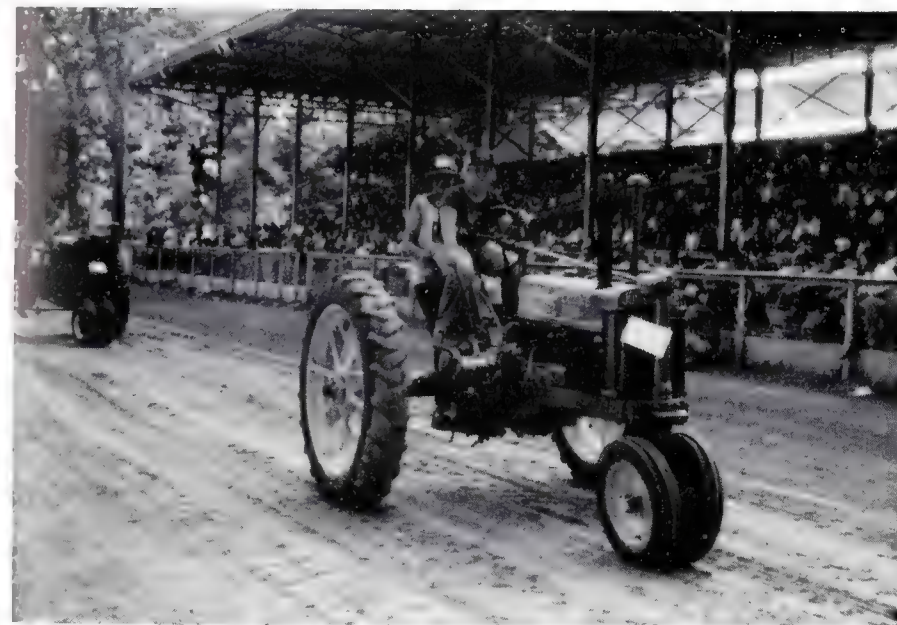
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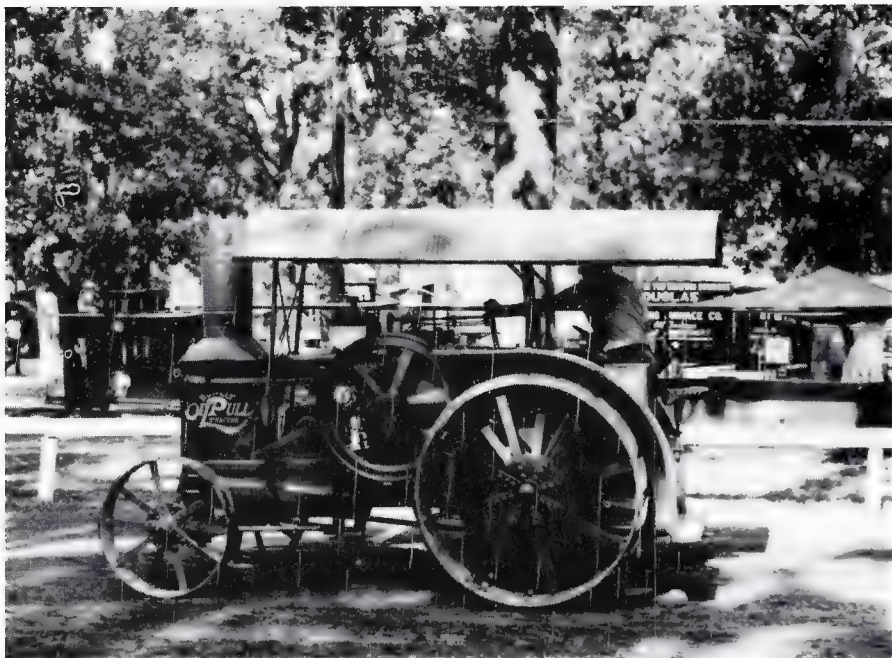
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The Association's veneer mill is always interesting to watch.



One of the many antique tractors participating in the daily Parade of Power.



An unusual Rumely Oil-pull tractor traveling around the track.



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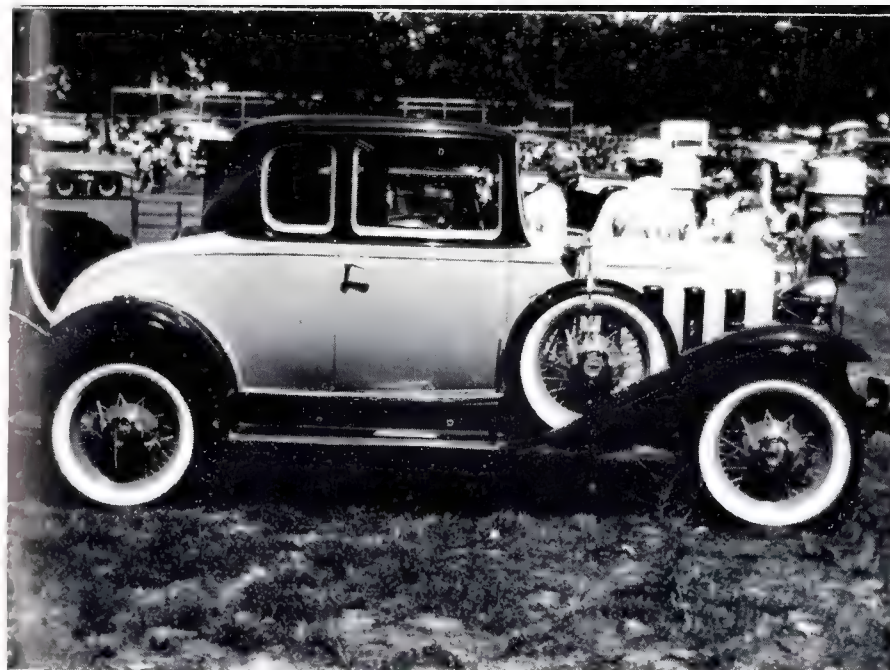
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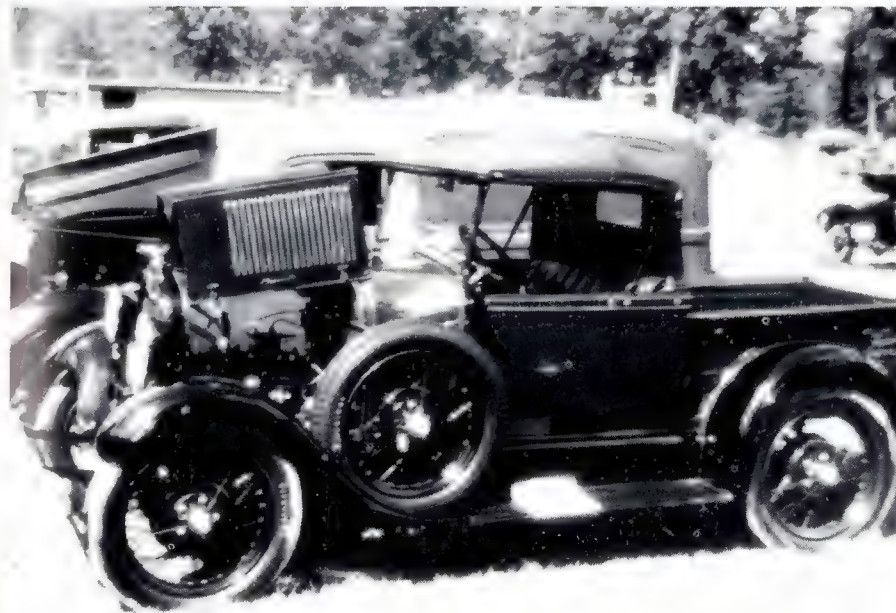
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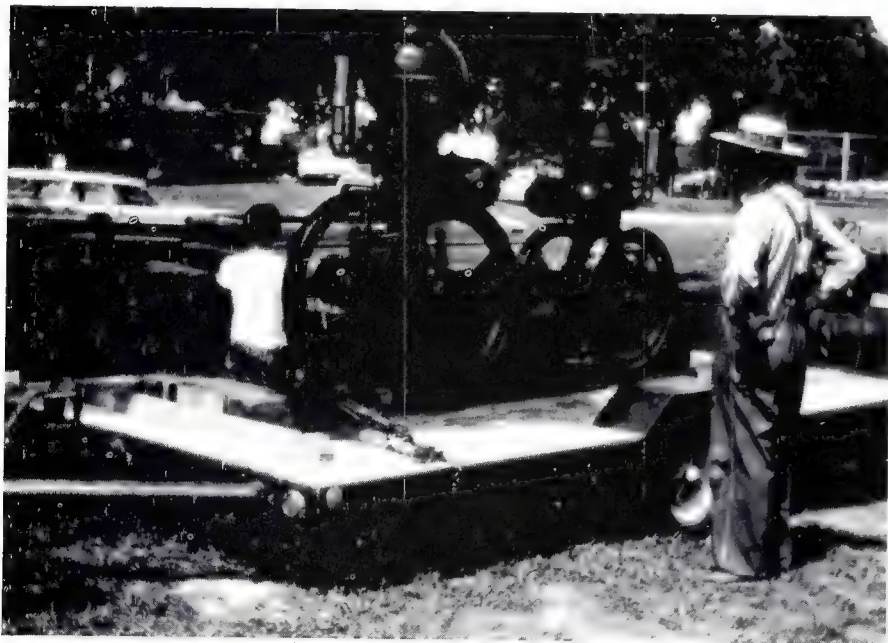
1932 Chevy 6 Sport Coup.



Model A Ford Pick Up with convertible top.



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Gas engines on display.

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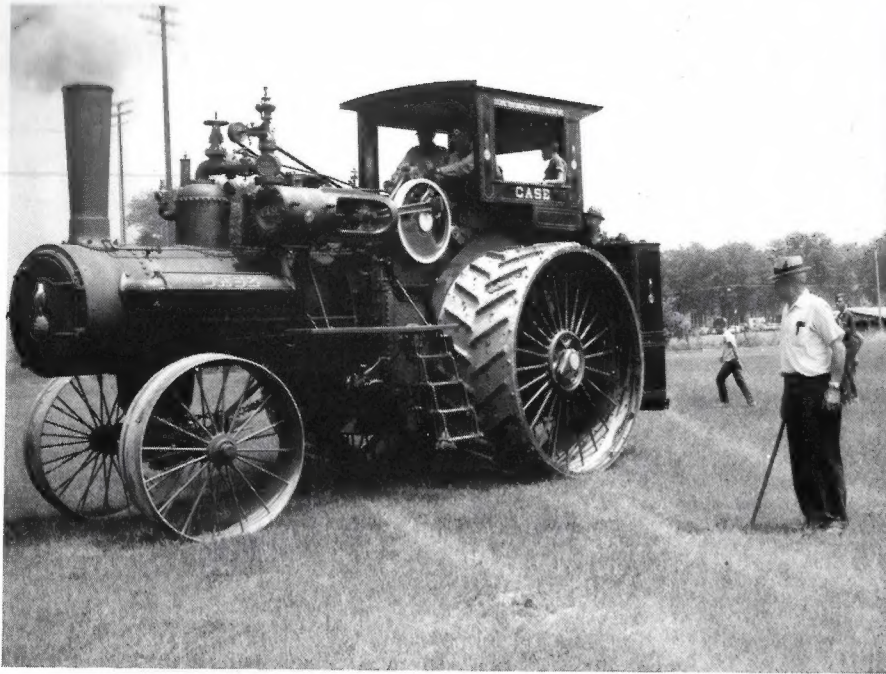
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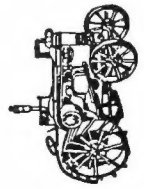
Here comes the Association owned miniature stean railroad.

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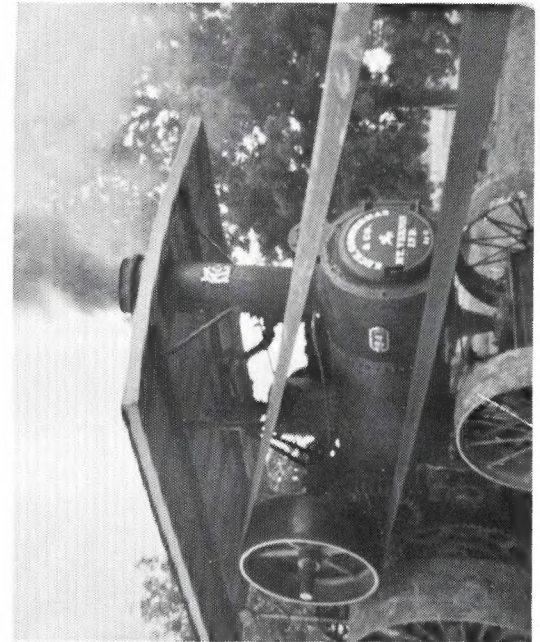
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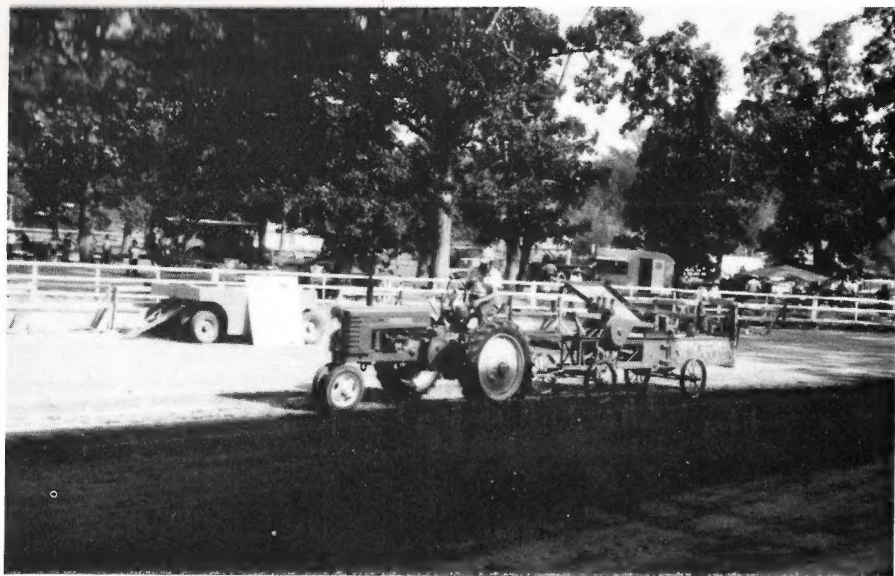
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- Dean Funk
- Gordon Kamper
- Tom Whitlow
- Shane Reinneck

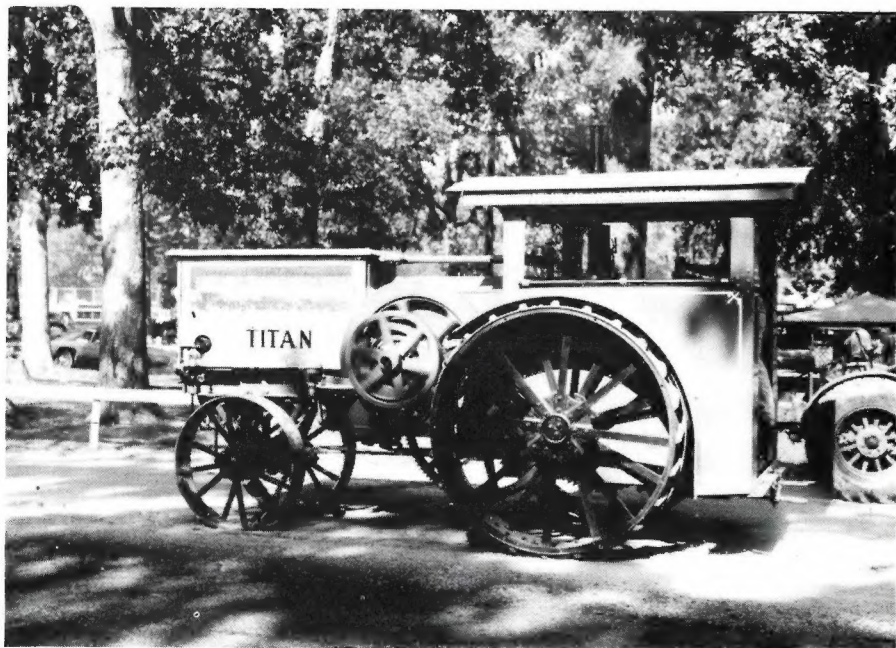


- Ed Karpel
- Gary Whitlow
- Bruce Pfannebecker
- John Kamper





Larry Gaertner from Walsh pulls an antique John Deere baler through the parade with his John Deere tractor.



Owned by the Thresherman Association, this rare old Titan tractor was one of the first tractors International Harvester made. It was recently completely torn down, cleaned and repainted by volunteers.

TOGETHER

The Show you are visiting today is the highlight of an entire year's work and effort built on the work done in previous years to make the American Thresherman Association one of the outstanding organizations of its kind around.

Interests among the active, working members vary from horse power, to steam power, to gas powered machinery, used in and around the farm, for transportation, or commercial work, yet, the ultimate interest is a love for and dedication to the machinery of yesteryear. For it was this machinery that laid the foundation for today's advanced technology.

The group has as many varied personalities and each is a needed and appreciated asset to the Association. The sparkplug, the leader, the wisened sage of experience, the idea-filled youth, the reasoner, the backbone, the manager, the guiding hand, the pacifier — all have their place in the group.

Unlike some organizations today, the individuals of the Thresherman Association are not involved for specific personal gain. The work done here is for the good of the Association and it is this common goal that draws the individuals together into one dedicated group — The American Thresherman Association. Together they haul engines and machinery; work the fields for wheat; cut, shock, and haul the wheat; rebuild machinery; set up for the Show; make critical decisions; participate and operate various phases of the Show; finance the upkeep of the buildings; and provide moral support for each other. Threshermen stand by each other and together they can accomplish much.

R.A.R.

